

# PEN PARK EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



## ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

*By David Morrow*



I appreciated having an opportunity to meet with many of you to discuss and see first hand some of your budgetary needs. I also learned why you were making the requests. I was impressed with all the effort that went into putting together your budget requests and the enthusiasm and hope expressed by each of you. But I was also overwhelmed by the number of items and personnel needed to continue operating each of the parks. We were able to take this information and consolidate it into a format we used to convey our budgetary needs. With the information you provided and a summary frantically put together by **Alyce, Kristen, Allen and Steve Weaver**, we met with **Allen Biaggi**, Director and **Kay Scherer**, Assistant Director, to discuss our budget. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss, in some detail, our preliminary budget request and get their critical feedback. We are ahead of where we were a couple of years ago, but a considerable amount of work is needed before the next legislative session.

The upcoming summer season will be very interesting. We have more water in our lakes than we have had for years. It's the first time I have actually seen Washoe Lake and I can't believe the amount of water at Lahontan. For the second year in a row, Echo Canyon has water, a situation **Ben Johnson** will take full advantage of this summer. We are also going to experience very high gasoline costs, which will severely strain our budgets and may impact visitation at some of our more remote parks.

Keep up the good work! We appreciate all you do to keep your parks and programs operating. We'll all be challenged this year to meet the expectations of our visitors and clients and to promote Nevada's growing state park system. Please be patient and courteous of your co-workers and park visitors. We are all likely to be a little stressed, because of the high cost of gasoline, tight budgets and the impact of putting together a very important budget request.



## OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

*By Allen Newberry*

Last year, I had several opportunities to get together with retired State Park employees and discuss times that now seem so distant. We had a luncheon sponsored by **Darrell Craig** at his home. Pictured below from left to right: **Bob Franke** (retired Chief of O&M), **Darrel Craig** (retired Regional Manager), **Terry Bray** (retired Regional Manager), **Larry Hall** (retired Park Supervisor-LSRA), **Bill Wood** (retired Chief of O&M), **Wayne Perock** (retired Administrator) and **Allen Newberry** (current Chief of O&M).

We had a good visit and discussed many old stories that helped us to mold and help the agency to evolve to what it is today. One sad thing, we are still using some of the vehicles in the agency that were new when I just started, but we'll save that story for another day. After the visit, I was called by **Bill Woods**. He asked me to stop by his home the next time I was in Reno. When I visited, Bill gave me several pictures of the past, original park academies for the park archives. Most of the people in the pictures were known to me, but believe it or not a few were before my time, and neither Bill nor I could identify them. At that time, I invited Bill over for a tour and to visit our new department building. **Bill and Ann** did visit. We had a wonderful tour and then we had a group lunch with one current and one past administrator (Wayne Perock/Dave Morrow), two past chiefs (Bill Wood/Bob Francke) and two current chiefs (J. Steve Weaver & me). What a wonderful opportunity to visit and share our long term friendships.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE (Con't)

We received news that **Bill** passed away on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2006. His obituary reads as follows:

**William Charles Wood**

William Charles Wood passed away March 27, 2006 at Washoe Medical Center surrounded by his family after a rich life of hard work and good fun. Bill was born February 7, 1927 in Sioux City, Iowa. He entered the Navy at age 17 while still in high school. Deployed to the South Pacific, he was involved in the invasion of Okinawa at age 18. After his discharge, he returned to Iowa to finish high school. He continued his education at Northwestern Jr. College and earned a Degree in Forestry from Iowa State University. While in college, he spent his summers working for Lassen National Park where he met his future wife, Ann Kershner. They were married June 16, 1951 in Akron, Ohio. Bill's first job after college was with Longbell Lumber Company in Longview, Washington. He then went to work for Diamond Match in California. One of the events of which he was most proud was aiding in the conviction of illegal tree cutters by matching the patterns on the illegally cut tree stumps with the rings on the recovered trees. Next, Bill worked for the Nevada Division of Forestry in Reno and then retired from the Nevada State Park system as the Director of Operations. Bill had several hobbies such as successful gardening, backpacking and genealogy and unsuccessful tennis and wine making. He was certainly able to laugh at himself. He was very proud of completing the John Muir Trail, including the ascent of Mt. Whitney. After retirement, he traveled extensively to Europe, several South Pacific islands and the Caribbean. He spent many winters in his RV in Mexico and Arizona. Bill is survived by his wife, Ann of Reno, son Tom and daughter-in-law, Darren of Quincy, California and daughter, Jane and son-in-law Paul of Verdi and four grandchildren. His ashes will be spread atop Mt. Lassen. Donations in his memory can be made to the Multiple Myeloma Research Fund, 51 Locust Avenue, Suite 201, New Canaan, CT 06840. A celebration of his Life will be held at his home April 29 from 2 – 5:00 P.M.

I was very happy I was able to visit with **Bill** and **Ann** on several different occasions over the years (they liked to camp and we would see him at Cathedral Gorge when I was in the Panaca Region and I know the rangers saw him at Valley of Fire on occasion). All and all we have great people that work for parks and appreciate the work done and the great outdoors. I'm not sure if we will be managing parks on the other side, yet we will certainly have a grand reunion one day.

Other News! We are optimistically looking forward to the new budget cycle and appreciate the many efforts by staff statewide that worked to acquaint us with park needs system wide. Division staff will be working with the regional managers to prioritize all needs prior to submitting



it to the budget office. We do appreciate the many efforts of all staff in the parks for the work and sweat done each day for our users, and for all the administrative work that helps to keep us moving forward.

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (P&D)**

*By Steve Weaver*

The Planning & Development Section is in the process of undergoing a major transition. **Jenny Scanland** has replaced **Brad Eckert** as our Parks & Recreation Program Manager. Her first priority will be finishing up the year long Park User Survey (with **Cheryl Surface's** and the **Nevada Conservation Corps'** able assistance), including data analysis and a detailed analysis report. However, her primary responsibility for the foreseeable future will be undertaking a new cycle of park master planning updates. Most all of our park master plans are now 14-22 years old; some are getting very obsolete. Her top four priorities are Dayton, South Fork, Spring Mountain Ranch, and Valley of Fire. We hope arrangements can be made for assistance from student interns. UNLV's Landscape Architecture Department and (WNCC) Western Nevada Community College's Geographic Information Systems programs are both willing players; we've already got a WNCC GIS student lined up for a Fall internship.

In addition, we have park master planning going on in several of our other parks. Master planning for the Dangberg Ranch is about half-way through the process; 3D-International of Salt Lake City leads the consultant team putting together that plan. The first Dangberg public master planning workshop was held on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Meanwhile, Requests for Proposal's (RFP) will be going out shortly for a consultant team to work on the Beaver Dam master plan, using Q1 Bond funds. We will also be working with the City of Las Vegas and their newly hired consultant team to develop a new master plan for Floyd Lamb, which will go back to the City in July, 2007. **J. Steve Weaver** will take the lead coordinating all three of these planning efforts, with the able assistance of regional and park staff, especially for the first two.

**Marc Lepire** has lateraled into **John Munoz's** reclassified position as a Project Manager I (Architect). Now as a permanent (General Fund) employee, Marc will be able to work on projects not necessarily funded by the Q1 Bond program. Marc's talents are certainly in demand throughout the entire park system. He currently has over a dozen projects assigned to him, four of which are either already under construction or will be shortly.

## SPRING 2006

### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (Con't)



Meanwhile, **Lisa Schettler**, Staff Engineer III, left for greener pasture, a promotion and elimination of an 80 mile round trip daily commute. She really has her hands full now as Wildlife's sole engineer. But rumor has it she'll be working on the Schroeder Dam decommissioning and removal project at Beaver Dam. So, we'll be seeing more of her. Good luck Lisa. Both Lisa's and Marc's old positions are currently being advertised, but their shoes will be difficult to fill!

Despite our depleted staff, P&D is moving right along with a number of capital improvement projects. As previously alluded to, **Marc Lepire** is currently supervising construction of the new restrooms building and site improvements at Mormon Station. The bid price was \$503,815. Meanwhile, Marc has the Belmont Courthouse Stabilization project bid opening scheduled for April 27 and Ft. Churchill's Buckland Station Interior Restoration project bid opening on May 4. He's also in charge of completing the Sand Harbor Concession snack bar/park store interior, which will likely be bid out in June. In addition, he's assisting with the Dangberg Ranch building roof replacement project, which has a bid opening scheduled for June 6.

Like most of us, **Joe Cyphers**, Supervising Engineer IV, is working on a number of projects simultaneously, even more so at this time. With Lisa Schettler's departure, he has taken over project management for the Sand Point Dunes Restoration Project, which is currently under construction. He will also be managing the renovation and expansion of the Sand Harbor Maintenance facility (which goes out to bid this month); at least until we're able to fill Lisa's vacant position. He's also working on septic system replacements at the Valley of Fire Visitor Center, Spring Mountain Ranch and Cathedral Gorge. And he's got new boat dock and ramp modifications at Lahontan's North Shore Marina scheduled for this Fall. Joe just oversaw completion of the new boat dock at Tahoe's Cave Rock.

"SST" is the word for **Bob Martin**. He has "Sweet Smelling (vault) Toilets (SST) installation/replacement projects going on this summer at Lahontan, Rye Patch, South Fork, Ft. Churchill, Tahoe's Backcountry and in the fall at Valley of Fire. He's also actively working on completion of the interpretive exhibits at the Sand Harbor Visitor Center, which is scheduled for opening in June and is helping **Marc Lepire** with interpretive exhibit design coordination for Buckland Station.

Other projects scheduled to have construction start this year are new/expanded campgrounds near Valley of Fire's Atlatl Rock and at Big Bend of the Colorado. Both locations

will be getting campground loops specifically designed for RV with hookups, a first in the park system. Big Bend will also get a new fee booth and paved day use/overlook parking. There is also a possibility we could get the new Washoe Lake maintenance storage shed completed or at least underway this year.

Although construction won't be bid this year for the Van Sickle Bi-State Park Unit in Stateline, the consultant contract with Design Workshop Inc. for completion of the environmental documentation and phase I construction design has been approved. Work is now underway, with **J. Steve Weaver** as the project manager. Construction is intended to start in the summer of 2007, after the next legislative session ends. Legislature will have to approve the sale of the Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) bonds that will be funding construction of the project. The grand opening will most likely take place in the late summer or fall of 2008.

Finally, **Cheryl Surface** has been plugging away with a multitude of RecTrails Program funding requests. The program will be getting over \$900,000 this year. See Cheryl's report below.

### RECREATIONAL TRAILS

*By Cheryl Surface*

The FY 2006 Recreational Trails Program grant cycle is well under way with the grant announcements made in early November 2005. The deadline for submitting applications was February 24, 2006, at which time 21 applications were received. This was a significant increase over last year's 12 applications. The Division Office, Washoe Lake State Park, South Fork State Recreation Area and Lahontan State Recreation Area all submitted requests for trail project funding. The Ad Hoc Nevada State Recreational Trails Advisory Committee will be meeting April 25, 2006, in Reno, to review and rank the eligible project applications. All eligible project sponsors are invited to present their trail projects to the Committee.

The first ever Regional Trails Training for Nevada and Northern California will take place May 12-14, 2006 at Galena Creek Park near Reno. Training will include trail layout and design; trail construction, maintenance and crew leadership and CPR/first-aid. This training is being funded through a Recreational Trails Program grant. You may register for the training at [www.tahoerimtrail.org](http://www.tahoerimtrail.org). Meals and lodging will be provided in addition to a wealth of trail information. The membership coalition hopes to make this training an annual affair and make it available statewide.

Welcome to **Jenny Scanland**, who replaces Brad Eckert as my supervisor. Jenny's diverse background will be an asset to the State Parks staff.

# WELCOME





## SPRING 2006

### NEW DIVISION EMPLOYEES

*By Alyce Cloutier*

**Gail Dansby** replaced Michele Hudson as the Carson Region Accounting Assistant II located in the division office. Gail is new to state government and came to us from Sierra Nevada Administrator.

Her duties for the Carson Region include auditing payments and payroll, timesheets, processing

monthly and weekly reports, filing and other duties assigned.

Our newest addition to the division staff is Jennifer (**Jenny**) **Scanland**, who replaced Brad Eckert, who left in November 2005. She has been with the State of Nevada for five years. Her previous jobs include The Nature Conservancy (1 yr. Grants Strategist), Division of Forestry (3 yrs. Stewardship Coordinator); Nevada Tahoe Resource Team (2

yrs. Environmental Scientist III) and U.S. Forest Service (10 yrs. Range Conservation Ecologist & Planning).

Jenny's top priority will be working on updating the master plans beginning with Dayton, Spring Mountain Ranch, Valley of Fire and South Fork. She will also be working on the Land & Water Conservation Fund as the Grants Coordinator.

### TRIVIA QUESTION

Can you guess who this previous state park employee and family are? The answer will be in the next issue.



### EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

*By Alyce Cloutier*

State Parks participated in the **2006 Earth Day Fair**, Saturday, April 22nd, at the Capitol Mall in Carson City. The theme for this Earth Day celebration was "Protect and Enjoy Carson City's Natural Resources." Some of the materials available to the public were Leave No Trace, Tread Lightly, Lake Tahoe's Backcountry, trails information and brochures about State Parks. Thanks go to **Eric Johnson, Domenic Bravo** and their staff for the display equipment and supplies and to the **Cheryl, Joy, Alyce, Dave** and **Allen** who manned the booth.



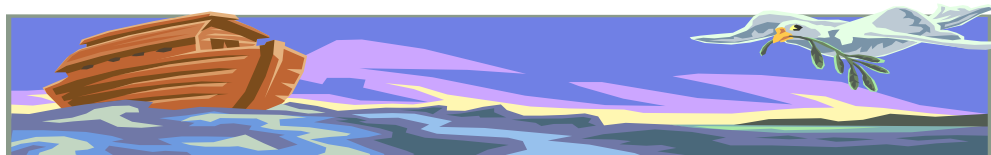
*The January-February 2006 Park Academy information will be in the next issue of the PEN.*

### CARSON REGION

#### DAYTON STATE PARK

*By Domenic Bravo*

Washoe Lake took over Dayton State Park in the latter part of January. We took over just in time to close the campground due to the floods. We are in an important time for Dayton--with the Master Plan being worked on and the possibilities for tying the two parks (Washoe/Dayton) together through an extensive trail system. We will still be having interpretive events at the park and should have the campground open sometime in May. Overall, it should be a great time for the park.



## CARSON REGION (Con't)

### LAKE TAHOE NEVADA STATE PARK

*By Dawn Swan*

**Tahoe Nevada Visitor Center** (our official name) will be opening soon. We are shooting for early June. This project is very exciting. We have plans for lots of great displays featuring Lake Tahoe along with a gift shop. Our gift shop will have apparel with our logo, lots of great books about Lake Tahoe and the surrounding area, along with cards and local art pieces. This has been a long time coming, but will be worth the wait.



Now let's talk about **Harbor House**. Our new concession area is due to open late this summer. It will be wonderful, as we will have even more to offer, such as soda, beer, wine, ice cream, pizza and even lattes'. Inside **Harbor House** there will be a park store complete with sundries, suntan lotion, post cards, shirts, etc. And we will have **Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival** performances seven days a week instead of six.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is **Dawn Swan**, I am the new Administrative Assistant at Sand Harbor. Needless to say, I am very happy to be here, it's a great place to work. Congratulation to **Joe Fontaine**, who has been promoted to Facility Supervisor. He has been with the parks since sometime around 1996 and he says he should be able to fill **Geoff's** shoes with the same amount of confusion and mayhem we are all used to!! We also have several returning seasonal employees along with a lot of new staff, some of which have already started working. Please join us in welcoming everyone!

We are all very excited about the Conservation Staff Specialist I just announced. This staff member will be responsible for the administration of the natural resource program of Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, which encompasses a wide range of professional and technical duties, as well as, special projects related to the Environmental Improvements Program (EIP) and natural resource management.

## SPRING 2006

At Sand Harbor no one told the snow that winter is over. We still have plenty and so does Spooner. It will be a couple of months before the trails all get cleared there. Lake Tahoe is very full and our beach space will be sparse this year, but our boaters will be very happy with no problem launching. More great news for boaters, Cave Rock got a brand new dock and it's ready.

In summary, we are planning on a very busy season. Unfortunately, road projects will likely cause some traffic delays through the end of June. The weather is beginning to look great.... Hope to see all of you soon!

### WASHOE LAKE STATE PARK

*By Domenic Bravo*

We finally have water back in the lake (enough for boats) this year. In addition, Washoe is now in charge of Dayton State Park (see other article). So needless to say, we will have a fun and eventful summer season. We have a new Maintenance Repair Specialist II for both parks, **Jeff Jones**, who I feel will be a welcome addition to the park system.

**Donna Silva**, has been working on the extensive interpretive programs we offer at Washoe and now at Dayton. Special thanks to her for getting all of the seasonals hired in a timely fashion (however, we now have another position open--Jeff Jones used to be our park tech).

Thanks to **Jim Black** for working on interpretive displays that were part of a trail grant in the 1990's. We should now have the blank stands that were up in the park filled with important information about the area. We look forward to a safe, productive and fun summer season this year--Anyone still need a snow dance??



## FALLON REGION

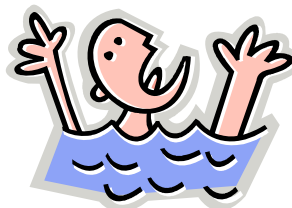
### FALLON REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

*By Stacey Patane*

Well here we are on the brink of the busy season again. Oh wait! I don't really remember a slow season. Well, anyway back to business. First things first – we would like to welcome **Ernest Cecil**, our new mechanic, to the Fallon Region. He has already proved himself to be a great asset.

Our office has already started hopping and **Eric, Pat, Peggy** and I are just trying to keep our heads above water.

Can't hardly wait for summer! I'm sure this finds you all in the same situation, so, tell yourself what I always tell myself, "Breathe, you just gotta breathe!" Come out and see us sometime, we'd love to have ya!





**SPRING 2006**

**FALLON/ELKO REGION (Con't)**

**BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK**

*By Mike Dinauer*



“April 5, 2006. Greetings from the staff at the Berlin-Ichthyosaur Snow Park.”

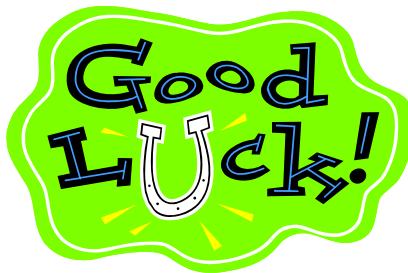
**LAHONTAN STATE RECREATION AREA**

*By James Hunting*

Things are going great here! We are enjoying the last storms of winter and enjoying spring like weather in between storms. Lake levels continue to rise as we watch the lake filling up to capacity and saying good-bye to beach space.

We here at the park are busy on spring projects and getting ready for the crowds of visitors. We are glad to have **Mike Cavanaugh**, **Fern House** and **Jim Sizemore**, our faithful seasonal employees, back with us for another season. We appreciate and recognize their hard work. We just completed our seasonal hiring and are excited for their arrival.

We say good-bye, best of luck and we will miss you to our Ranger, **Anne-Marie Borgending** as she leaves us for new endeavors. We have a great family of rangers, seasonal staff, maintenance personnel and region staff. We hope you all stop by and say hi when you're in the neighborhood!!!



**RYE PATCH STATE RECREATION AREA**

*By Paul Schmidt*

Ah, to have spring just around the corner. Drunken fishermen stumbling down the stream bank and rowdy party animals urinating on tires and burning their glass bottles in the campfire. Ah, the memories!

The only thing better than this is working at the fee booth and having to listen to someone who has used the park for the last ten years, without ever having to pay fees. I guess that's why we love this business so much!

Thanks to extra division dollars, we were able to bring back our returning Park Technician, **Bert Durance**, on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The only exception is he came back as a Maintenance Repair Worker, not a Park Technician. Bert has about a hundred years experience in all phases of maintenance. This includes two years of nuclear weapons maintenance with the Army. Just in case we need to nuke something or fix the microwave.

**Jim** and I have been busy burning tumbleweeds along the 45 degree angled barb wire fence. This is followed the next day by starting where we began the previous day, burning all over again. You get the picture.

**Jim** has started to go through withdrawals, I believe, because he hasn't eaten walleye in nearly four months. Rest assured, he will come out of withdrawals soon. Heavy rains earlier this year caused several trees to uproot park wide. **Jim** and I (**Jim** mostly) have been busy cutting and burning the downed trees.

All but one of our seasonals will be returning from last year. **Scott Houston** and **Jessica Esenarro** will be returning and we will be looking for one more Park Aid to fill out the ranks. Interviews were conducted in the middle of March.



If all goes well, we should have some new toys (I mean equipment) to work with this year. **Eric Johnson** and **Pat Marker** have been working diligently to acquire a new John Deere tractor for us. I will be picking up our new Honda quad later this week and we are also scheduled to get two of the three new restrooms we ordered very soon. Bureau of Land Management (**BLM**) contributed a brand new cattle guard for our west entrance and **Pershing County Road Department** installed it for us, no charge. Finally, we hope to slide into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with the purchase of a new cash register – alas no more tickets!

Water has been pouring over the dam for about six weeks now. So, it looks like another good year for us. We hope you have had a good winter and we hope you are carrying the winning hand at the division bi-annual poker game (park budget presentation).



FALLON/ELKO REGION (Con't)

SOUTH FORK STATE RECREATION AREA

*By Jim Wilkinson*

I would like to first thank **Bob, Mark** and **Eric** for completing all of my required duties in my medical absence. I would also like to thank the fine medical professional at the Mental Health Facility, where I was staying. I'm just kidding!!! I was wondering if I was even missed. Fortunately, I think I was missed. Life goes on with or without you. It was a good time for reflection, as this is the most time I have taken off in ten years.

We've had a wet winter/early spring in the Elko/Spring Creek area. We didn't get the huge accumulations of snow, but we've had consistent rain and snow on the valley floors and plenty of snow in the higher Ruby Mountains. We also didn't get the bitter minus temperatures that are common on Northeastern Nevada. This was really nice. Ice fishing though was non-existent. We did have a lot of people driving around. Our water level will be at full capacity in the reservoir, so we expect to have a busy year.

Like the majority of Nevada, Elko County continues to gain in population. The price of gold has compounded the growth. Census indicators are predicting Elko County will double in population in the next five years. This may have a positive or negative impact on South Fork. I personally feel the quality of life in our area is fantastic. For example, **Bob, Mark** and I currently have a nice commute home with light traffic. It's going to be different, if traffic is doubled on the road. Staff in the Las Vegas and Reno-Carson areas will hopefully shed a tear for us, because we are going to find out what a pain commuting can be and reminisce about how good our quality of life used to be.



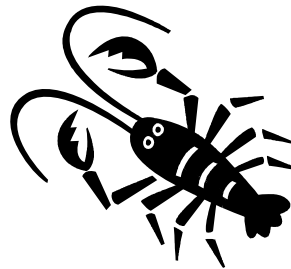
To me, an interesting fact is that there is park staff from other areas of the state who own houses in the Spring Creek area. Are there some others out there who have mysteriously bought a house in the Spring Creek or Elko area and keep up a double life? If you do, make sure and visit us out at South Fork. We would like to start an Elko Chapter for a state park employee housing association.

On a serious note, if the population base using recreational areas doubles in population, what planning and improvements in infrastructure should we look into? We hopefully have a leg up with our planned and approved Question 1 projects and if our FY08 and 09 budget requests are approved. In any event, we are looking at continual negative impacts on the limited camping and day use areas we have. As a recreational area, we are limited in our ability to disperse visitors.

In my opinion, the entire division is in for some eye-popping growth in visitation. The next five years will be a good indicator. We need to show continual foresight and plan accordingly. Otherwise, we will degrade what we have been designated to administer and protect.



A lone male Bald Eagle and a male and female pair of Golden Eagles again visited and took up residence at South Fork for the winter and spring. I was devastated when a pair of Golden Eagles was killed last summer in the Twin Bridges area. Somehow, the word got out and a niche was filled when two new Golden Eagles showed up. As soon as there was a void, these two miraculously appeared to highlight our day. My thinking is one of the kids from the original pair returned. The Golden Eagles live permanently in the South Fork/Twin Bridges area. The male Bald Eagle winters here from the Snake River Corridor in Idaho. He has already left and his perched silhouette in the cottonwood trees will be missed.



For the life of me, I cannot understand why fish cleaning stations are so popular. Here at South Fork, we have a voracious population of Crawdads who will quickly devour any cleaned fish waste. Why in the world would anybody throw out their fish guts in a garbage can or clean their fish and leave their guts piled next to one the water faucets? There is a big fresh water reservoir with plenty of room to safely clean your fish. I can understand the sanitation problems if you had a small pond. This is different.

This spring, there will be plenty of weeds to spray, roads to grade, permits to issue and trash cans to empty. We hope you have a pleasant spring.

PANACA REGION

CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK & VISITOR CENTER

*By Barbara Rohde*

Did we have a winter this year? We didn't have to shovel snow at all until March! Having a mild winter meant more visitors and more campers and means better statistics and fee reports! But it also means we didn't have as much time to work on the ever-present paperwork...and I am way behind on getting my new programs together for this summer!



PANACA REGION

**CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK & VISITOR CENTER (Con't)**

If anyone has some good images of coyotes, fox, bobcats or mountain lions, could you e-mail them to me, for my new program called "Varmints!" I am going to do this as my first-ever PowerPoint presentation at the park (yeah, even this ol' dog can learn some new tricks). If anyone needs a good a picture of ring-necked pheasants, ask away. We have had a "rooster" and two "hens" at the Visitor Center this winter. They are very fond of the bird seed that spills from the feeders and many visitors have been treated to the sight of these beautiful birds.

In February, **Barb** attended the National Association for Interpretation's Regional Workshop, held in Red Rock Canyon. Most of the attendees were from California and we were treated to a wonderful tour at Valley of Fire by **Jim Hammons**. Thanks, **Jim** – the Atlatl demonstration made a big impression on everyone and I enjoyed being able to try my hand at throwing one of those! (It went about as far as my typical golf-drive.)

If you haven't seen the March-April edition of **Nevada Magazine**, find a copy before they go off the newsstand. I was invited to write an article about Cathedral Gorge and the interpretive programs here. Limiting myself to 450 words was very difficult, but I was pleasantly surprised to see the Calendar of Events editor gave us a two-page spread.

**Nevin Birkmier** returned for her fifth season at Cathedral Gorge and was able to go to Beaver Dam with new Park Aid, **Steven Davy**, who will be working there this summer. They were both awed at the beauty of this park and even more awed at the number of beavers they have been actively building their dams and lodges along the creek. **Steven** is looking forward to spending the summer out there and is signing up his wife and step-children to help him as volunteers this summer.



**Cody** assumed responsibility for Beaver Dam on January 1, to relieve Phares Woods of some of the strain since Phares is getting the Elgin Schoolhouse State Historic Site ready to open for tours. We are re-writing the master plan to determine suitable activities and facilities now that there is no reservoir at the park. Although visitation dropped last year, we hope to get the word out that there IS a park and it IS beautiful, even without a lake.



Is Cody in over his head? NAH! He loves his job!



I think Nevin took the raking-thing a little overboard...



Barb meets the nicest people at the Visitor Center.

**Kim Lee** saw the realization of a dream when he, **Cody Tingey** and **Barbara Rohde** headed to Logandale on April 5 to set up a booth at the **Clark County Fair**. He loves working for State Parks and wanted to share our parks with a wider audience. The 70,000+ that visit the Clark County Fair (in the four days) were the perfect target. An NDF Conservation Crew helped to build the 3-part display, as see the photo on the next page. **Cody** figured out how to hang photos by tacking on strips of wood that let unframed prints be slipped in between the top and bottom "rail." The guys also built a small table from juniper posts.



## SPRING 2006

The NDF Crew members wondered why they were building something from “firewood,” until they saw the finished product. After setting up the table and kiosk, **Cody** and **Kim** had numerous offers to buy the table. I guess you know what they’ll be doing on their days off! We had a laptop computer set on the table, with a copy of the Region V slide program playing in a continuous loop. (The photo below was taken first thing Thursday morning, before the laptop was set up).



We talked to several hundred people each day, with more just stopping by to pick up brochures. Many of the folks who stopped by were familiar with the parks in the Panaca Region and more expressed their appreciation for having the booth at the Fair. Over the weekend, staff from Valley of Fire and Echo Canyon staffed the booth – thanks to **Jim Hammons**, **Jennifer Finlan**, **Julie Tanner**, and **Ben Johnson**. The Dynamic Duo is already thinking of ways to improve our display for NEXT year’s fair!

### CAVE LAKE STATE PARK

*By Steve Gray*

The ice has finally melted and most snow is gone around the lake. **Terry Ivins** has been busy putting up our new yuppy log look on the shop. We ordered beautiful cedar garage doors to match the log siding. Cave Lake sure needed a face lift!!!

Both **Tracey Doutre** and **Dessa Stroud** are coming back as Park Aids this season. It sure is nice to have returning seasonals every year. Our new improved group site is almost completely reserved for the entire summer. I think I am going to need to build another one just to handle the demand. On a sad note, my duck, **Jake**, got eaten by a coyote or a bobcat. He was a long survivor in the duck world. He will be missed.

The **White Pine County Lands Bill** is progressing nicely for the Cave Lake Expansion. It is scheduled to be finalized in the coming months and hit Washington D.C. by the end of the summer. This will have a big impact on the recreational opportunities at Cave Lake. We will need to completely redo the Park Master Plan, which is badly needed anyway. The **Forest Service** and the **Great Basin**

**Trails Alliance** is starting the trail enhancement to incorporate the Cave Lake Overlook Trail around Square Top. This will include 3.5 additional miles of new trail.

I would like to give a special thanks to **Ft. Churchill State Historic Park** and the staff that helped to bring the cannon over to White Pine County for the **Fire and Ice Show**. It was a huge hit. I ended up spending \$60.00 on black powder because it was such a hit. Terry and I have decided to build our own. Well, it is a nice day up here and Terry and I have decided to go for a swim (this one won’t be on camera). I hope everyone has a good summer!!!

Keep your powder dry and remember, if you walk on ice long enough, you will go down.

### ECHO CANYON STATE PARK

*By Barbara Rhode*

BREAKING NEWS! Or is it “BROKEN NEWS” – the week before Christmas, the boys’ crew from the **Caliente Youth Center** found a Fremont pot in the rock-slide where they were removing rocks, to use as rip-rapping around the base of the new pedestrian bridge at Echo Canyon State Park. Park Supervisor **Ben Johnson** brought the remains to the Visitor Center and **Barb** used her contacts with the Nevada Archeological Association to get **Eva Jensen**, archeologist from the Lost City Museum, to come up and do a site-documentation.



The bridge, as it was being installed.

The pot (upside-down, on its rim) and all the pieces found with it.



**Ben Johnson**, standing at the location where the pot was discovered.

## PANACA REGION (Con't)



**Eva Jensen**, measuring the pot (volunteer **Keith Stever** had built the stand for displaying the pot, in the Visitor Center).

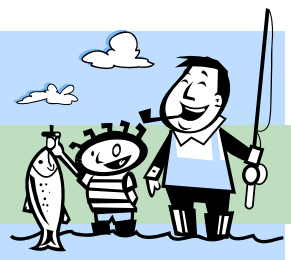
Thanks to **Jack Martindale**'s crew for finding this pot, to add to the small collection of artifacts on display at the Visitor Center. That was truly a "once-in-a-lifetime" find; both **Farrell** and **Manetta Lytle**, who were born and raised in Rose Valley and Eagle Valley said they had played along this creek as youngsters, and never found anything like this!

## SPRING VALLEY STATE PARKS

*By Andrew Porter*

And once again we are here. Another spring, another season. We seem to be off to a slower start in light of past years. Fuel prices may be keeping our visitors home more than they would enjoy, but the deluge is inevitable and will arrive shortly. The highly anticipated **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Echo Canyon and Spring Valley Fishing Derby** this May 13<sup>th</sup>

will of course be the season kick-off and Mr. **Ben Johnson**'s ambitions will surely be fulfilled just as they were last year with the introduction of his first and highly successful tagged fishing event. With Memorial Day directly following, there will be no turning back.



I am not worried though. We expect great efficiency from our two experienced, returning seasonals. **Corry McBride** obviously can't get enough punishment. He is gladly returning for another fun-filled season. I think he likes it here. **Erin Neat**, our returning prodigal, has been the light and is back after a short break. She will soon know just how much she missed cleaning sites.

It was really great seeing everybody at the last Park Academy. All here at Spring Valley hope to attend next time...until then, enjoy and good luck!

## WARD CHARCOAL OVENS STATE PARK

*By Mike Ray*

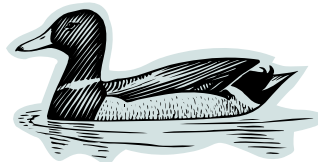
Snow, snow, snow, all I see is snow. After a fairly mild winter, March came and so did the snow. Although there

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are no "White Pines" in White Pine County, the pines certainly have been white. So far, April has been fairly stormy as well. Maybe I can take the plow off my truck by June.

Improvements to the residence are underway. The ceilings are being redone and new carpet will follow. I would like to thank **Terry Ivins** for all the hours he has put in on the residence. I would also like to thank him for being so patient with me. Terry has forgotten more about maintenance than I will ever know.

NV State Parks Cooperative Assoc. (**NSPCA**) was kind enough to fund a replacement interpretive trailhead sign for the Interpretive Loop-Trail near the ovens. The original sign was damaged by vandals and was beyond repair. The new sign is being done locally by Extreme Sign Works and will be consistent with the style of other signs they have produced and are located throughout the park. Thanks **NSPCA!!!**



In closing, I would like to dedicate this article to the Memory of **Jake the Duck**. Jake, Ward's mascot, turned up missing one morning. We suspect one of our resident coyotes tricked him into coming over for dinner. Poor Jake didn't realize he was dinner.

## LAS VEGAS REGION

### LAS VEGAS REGION HEADQUARTERS

*By Barbara Rhode*

Here is an early submission for the next PEN, "dedicated" to **Guy Dudley**, who wasn't at the Park Academy. Every day when they would put out the little PAN (Park Academy Newsletter), I had a poem for the day. Continuing in this tradition, I have one for the PEN, which I'm sure most field staff will appreciate!

### **"YOU'RE UNREADABLE"**

Dedicated to **Guy Dudley**

(Sing to the tune of "You're Unbelievable")

Ninety-five miles from the repeater site  
And down here in a "hole,"  
I try & try to click my mike  
And all I get is SHHJH#\$#\$JJJhhHHH

Drive the truck ¼ mile  
Further down the road.  
I try & try to click my mike  
And all I get is SHHJH#\$#\$JJJhhHHH





## LAS VEGAS REGION (Con't)

Finally on a little rise  
Beside a cedar tree  
Part of my words get through to you  
Oh, lordy, can it be?

But just when I think I'm getting thru  
And the message is delivered  
Your garbled words come crackling back  
"SHHHJHHH you're unreadable."

-Barbara Rohde, the Panaca Region Poet

## VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK

By Jennifer Finlen

This week I was reminded of how fragile life really is and the hard fact that the people around you are not always going to be there. The passing of **Gary Rimbey** was a sudden and unexpected turn of events.



Some of you had known him for close to 30 years and helped him and his family move around the state

from park to park, from hot climates to cold, and back again. As a matter of fact, he worked in 4 of the 5 regions. I only had the opportunity to know him for 6 years. In those six years, I learned so much from him.

I want to share a little story about him with all of you. In 2000, Gary called me up while I was at college in Kansas and offered me the ranger position. I was your typical gung ho student who couldn't wait to get a "real job" and I told him I would be there in 2 days. He replied, "You should take your time moving and driving across the country. After all, this is just a job."

Once I started working in the Las Vegas Region, I realized he didn't follow his own advice. He was the type of man who loved his work; it was a way of life for him. He burned both ends and the middle of the candle simultaneously. There were many times he would come in as early as 7:00 a.m. and not leave until 9:00 or 11:00 at night and often worked on weekends. He was also always willing to work in the parks when demand required it. He was always willing to listen to employee problems, whether it is personal or job related, yet he didn't have the pay or notoriety as Dr. Phil or Dr. Joyce. He loved life, fishing, Idaho, and his Ford (oh, yes and his family).

His longest stint was at Valley of Fire and he loved the park. He enjoyed his long runs through the Valley; the hotter the temperature, the better. He enjoyed talking to the public, utilizing both information and humor to make their visit more enjoyable. He was at home behind the

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computer, the telephone, or the sales counter. Any one of those is enough to drive anyone crazy and he managed all three simultaneously. Try to fix that image in your mind.

On one of my trips to the hospital to visit him, we had a nice chat. He reminded me, "that it's just a job." It seemed he had gone full circle, back to what he had told me 6 years before. His family and friends meant more to him than any job. I think that is what we all need to remember sometimes. It's ok to love your job and to work hard at it, but don't obsess at it. There is more to life than that. I think this is what Gary would want us all to remember. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife and two daughters. He will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

## MORE AT VALLEY OF FIRE

By Jim

Hammons

Here's a little story from the Valley of Fire. The busy season has arrived and we are very happy to say our visitors have not forgotten us way out here. The visitors have been piling in by the thousands and we are ready. We think we are anyway. Everyone here at the park would like to thank **Steve Gray** and **Mike Ray**. They were here in April to help us out. We will probably send them home with their own story or maybe even two. We have many visitors here on the south end of park, but we also seem to have a large amount of visitors who want to ride the rough terrain of Logandale trails. I'm sure everyone has noticed we are busy. If you're lucky enough to get through on the phone, the person you want probably isn't here. If you wait long enough they might even get a chance to call you back. You should see outside the office. Its loads of fun! **Russell Nutt**, Park Ranger, is just about done with POST. We won't complain about a new commissioned ranger to help with all of the great tasks thrown at us. He came all the way from Mississippi.

**Paul Michalec**, Interpretive Ranger, came from Spring Mountain Ranch as the Park Technician and wanted to give us a try. There are plenty of school groups and Boy Scout troops to keep him busy with tons of programs. I think he is having fun with it. The seasonals have been trying to remove the overgrowth of weeds due to the heavy rains of 2005. The Visitor Center parking lot is overgrown with bushes of every kind and there are many cacti underneath that we can no longer see. They are pretty when we see them. Someday we will be weed free again. They have been working very hard to keep up with the daily routines and trying to keep up with projects as well. We appreciated all they do. The two maintenance boys will be a lot happier now that they have insulation in the other half of the shop. Before we know it, winter will be here again and maybe this time they won't freeze. They no longer have a stove heater and they got cold. Well, this has taken up too much time already, gotta run! Hope you enjoyed our little story. **Russell Nutt** is the proud father of Caden Avery Nutt, born April 25, 2006. Congratulations!!!

